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## BOOK REVIEWS.

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**A SHORT CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.** By Francis Newton Thorpe, Author of "A (State) Constitutional History of the American People, 1776-1850," "The Constitutional History of the United States, 1765-1895," "The Government of the People of the United States, etc." Little, Brown & Co. Boston: 1904.

Few men have the time to read any of the several extended works dealing with our constitutional history, yet none of us can understand the basic principles of our government without knowing something of the history of our fundamental law. This book, therefore, will fill the need so often expressed, of a good, modern, one-volume text-book in American constitutional history.

The present volume narrates the constitutional history both of the Union and of the States, showing the common basis of American local and general government.

The chapters on the State constitutions treat of a subject too much neglected. A study of the subject quickly reveals its importance. Since 1865 the thought of Americans has turned chiefly to national matters, not without a distinct decay of interest in commonwealth affairs. Yet it is in the State constitutions adopted since 1865 that one may read the record of serious attempts to adapt the written form of government to the immediate needs of the people.

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**GOLD AND BLAKEMORE ON BANKRUPTCY.** The Bankruptcy Act of 1898 annotated and explained with the amendments thereto, all the important and latest Federal and State decisions thereon, and the general orders and forms established by the U. S. Supreme Court. By John M. Gould, joint editor of Gould and Tucker's Notes on the United States Revised Statutes, and Arthur W. Blakemore, of the Boston Bar. Little, Brown & Company. Boston: 1904.

When the Bankruptcy Act of 1898 was first enacted, it was freely predicted that it would soon meet the fate of the Bankrupt Acts of 1800, 1841 and 1867, and suffer an early repeal, but it seems now to be generally admitted that the present act is substantially satisfactory in its operation and is on our Federal statute book to remain. There is no subject within Federal jurisdiction with which the average lawyer needs to be more intimately acquainted. The method of treatment pursued in this work is exceeding convenient. There is no better way to treat a statute than to follow each section with a concise and classified statement of the decisions thereunder, and we have seen no work on bankruptcy which puts the learning on the subject in more accessible form. The decisions under each section are brought down to May 1st, 1900.

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**HOGG'S EQUITY PROCEDURE.** Equity Procedure embodying the principles of pleading and practice applicable to courts of equity and containing many precedents of general practical utility. Designed to meet the demands of practice in Virginia and West Virginia and for general use in other States. By Charles E. Hogg, author of "Pleading and Forms," and of "Equity Principles." The W. H. Anderson Company. Law Book Publishers. Cincinnati: 1903.

Before reviewing this work we have purposely waited to test its value by actual experience in practice. As the author of the work is a member of the West Virginia bar, we suppose that his work as yet has not come into general